

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:
a first wire disposed on the distal side of said guide wire, said first wire being made from a reshappable metal material;
said first wire being configured to be plastically deformed to a desired shape and maintained in the desired shape upon being bent in the desired shape by a user;
and
a second wire disposed on the proximal side from said first wire, said second wire being made from a pseudo-elastic alloy;
wherein said first wire and said second wire are joined to each other by welding.

2. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:
a third wire disposed on the proximal side from said second wire, said third wire being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than an elastic modulus of the material for forming said second wire;
wherein said second wire and said third wire are joined to each other by welding.

3. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein each of outer diameters of said first wire and said second wire is gradually reduced in the direction toward the distal end in a region extending from a position on the proximal side from a welded portion between said first wire and said second wire to a position on the distal side from said welded portion across said welded portion.

4. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said first wire has a small cross-sectional area portion having a cross-sectional area smaller than a cross-sectional area of a distal end portion of said second wire in the vicinity of a welded portion between said first wire and said second wire.

5. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:
an overlapping portion in which a proximal end portion of said first wire and a distal end portion of said second wire are overlapped to each other in the axial direction of said first and second wires;
wherein said first wire and said second wire are welded to each other in said overlapping portion.

6. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:
a rigidity imparting member for increasing a flexural rigidity of the vicinity of a distal end portion of said second wire in the vicinity of the proximal side of a welded portion between said first wire and said second wire covering the outer periphery of said second wire.

7. (Withdrawn) A guide wire comprising:

a distal side wire disposed on the distal side of said guide wire, said distal side wire being made from a reshappable metal material;
an intermediate wire disposed on the proximal side from said distal side wire, at least an outer layer of said intermediate wire being made from a pseudo-elastic alloy; and

a proximal side wire disposed on the proximal side from said intermediate wire, said proximal side wire being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than an elastic modulus of said pseudo-elastic alloy.

8. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 7, wherein said intermediate wire and said proximal side wire are joined to each other by welding.

9. (Withdrawn) A guide wire comprising:

a first wire including a tubular wire disposed on the distal side of said guide wire and a core member provided so as to pass through said tubular wire, said core member being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than an elastic modulus of a material for forming said tubular wire; and

a second wire integrally connected to the proximal side of said first wire, said second wire being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than the elastic modulus of the material for forming said tubular wire.

10. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 9, wherein said core member is exposed at a distal end portion of said first wire.

11. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 9, wherein letting a maximum outer diameter of said tubular wire be R_1 (mm) and an average outer diameter of said core member be R_2 (mm), a ratio of R_2/R_1 is in a range of 0.01 to 0.5.

12. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:

a third wire disposed on the proximal side from said second wire, said third wire being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than an elastic modulus of the material forming said second wire.

13. (Currently Amended) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said first wire possesses a length in a range of about 10 to 1,000 mm.

14. (Currently Amended) The guide wire according to claim 13, wherein said length of the first wire is a range of about 10 to 50 mm.

15. (Currently Amended) The guide wire according to claim 13, wherein said length of the first wire is in a range of about 100 to 300 mm.

16. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said welding is butt resistance welding.

17. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said welding is spot welding.

18. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein each of a connection end face of the first wire to the second wire and a connection end face of the second wire to the first wire is nearly perpendicular to the axial direction of both the first and second wires.

19. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:

a spiral coil covering at least a distal end portion of the first wire.

20. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 19, wherein a welded portion between said first wire and said second wire is located on the proximal side of a proximal end of the coil.

21. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 19, wherein a welded portion between the first wire and the second wire is located on a distal side of a proximal end of the coil.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, said third wire is made from a stainless steel or a cobalt alloy.

24. (New) A guide wire comprising:

a first wire disposed on the distal side of said guide wire, said first wire being made from a reshappable metal material;

said first wire being configured to be plastically deformed to a desired shape and maintained in the desired shape upon being bent in the desired shape by a user;

a spiral coil covering at least a distal end portion of said first wire;

a second wire disposed on the proximal side from said first wire, said second wire being made from a pseudo-elastic alloy;

wherein said first wire and said second wire are joined to each other by welding at a welded portion; and

the welded portion being located on a distal side of a proximal end of said spiral coil.

25. (New) The guide wire according to Claim 24, wherein the first wire and the second wire are coaxial.

26. (New) The guide wire according to Claim 25, wherein the first wire includes a proximal end face and the second wire includes a distal end face, the proximal end face of the first wire and the distal end face of the second wire abutting one another and being welded to one another to form the welded portion.

27. (New) The guide wire according to Claim 25, further comprising a fixing material fixed to a distal end of the spiral coil and a distal end of the first wire.